

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A hot-rolled wire rod that has excellent wire drawability as it is hot rolled and thus allows heat treatment prior to wire drawing to be omitted:

~~said hot rolled wire rod being a hot rolled wire rod 5.0 mm or more in diameter, containing comprising (in mass%):~~

C: 0.6 to 1.0%,

Si: 0.1 to 1.5%,

Mn: 0.3 to 1.0%,

P: 0.02% or less, and

S: 0.02% or less;

wherein said hot-rolled wire rod is

5.0 mm or more in diameter;

not less than 90% of said wire rod in area percentage being composed of comprises a pearlite structure; and

the mechanical properties of said wire rod 4 m in length satisfying satisfy the following expressions (1) to (4)[[,]]:

(1) $TS^*-30 \leq \text{Average value of tensile strength (} TS_{AV} \text{ in MPa)} \leq TS^*+30$,

where, $TS^* = 400x \{[C]+([Mn]+[Si])/5\}+670$ and the elements in square brackets [] in the equality equation mean the contents of relevant elements in percentage,

(2) Standard deviation of tensile strength ($TS\sigma$) ≤ 30 MPa,

(3) Average value of reduction of area (RA_{AV}) $> 35\%$,

(4) Standard deviation of reduction of area ($RA\sigma$) $\leq 4\%$.

Claim 2 (Original): A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, wherein the average diameter of nodules in said pearlite structure is 10 μm or less.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, said wire rod further containing comprising:

Cr: 0.3% or less (excluding zero) and/or

Ni: 0.3% or less (excluding zero).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, said wire rod further eontaining comprising at least one element selected from among the group consisting of Nb, V, Ti, Hf and Zr by 0.1% or less (excluding zero) in total.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, wherein said wire rod further comprising N [[is]] controlled to 0.01% or less.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, wherein said wire rod further comprising Al and Mg [[are]] controlled to 0.05% or less and 0.01% or less, respectively.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, said wire rod further eontaining comprising

B: 0.001 to 0.005%.